

**What Is Claimed Is:**

1. A process for preparing a foreign protein comprising the steps of culturing a bacterium containing a cystein synthase (*cysK*) gene and a gene encoding the foreign protein in a culture medium thereby producing the foreign protein; and harvesting the foreign protein .  
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2. The process according to claim 1, wherein the bacterium is one which has been transformed with a vector containing both the *cysK* gene and the gene encoding the foreign protein.  
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3. The process according to claim 1, wherein the bacterium is one which has been transformed with a vector containing the *cysK* gene and a vector containing the gene encoding a foreign protein.  
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4. The process according to claim 1, wherein the *cysK* gene is derived from *E. coli*.  
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5. The process according to claim 1 , wherein the foreign protein is a serine-rich protein.  
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6. The process according to claim 5, wherein the serine-rich protein is leptin or IL-12p40(interleukin 12  $\beta$  chain).  
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7. A recombinant vector comprising both a *cysK* gene and a gene encoding a foreign protein.

8. A bacterium transformed with a recombinant vector according to claim  
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9. A bacterium transformed with a vector containing a *cysK* gene and a vector containing a gene encoding a foreign protein.

10 10. The recombinant vector according to claim 7, which is selected from plasmid pAC104CysK as shown in Fig. 2, or plasmid pEDIL-12p40 as shown in Fig. 3.

11 11. The process according to claim 2, where in the *cysK* gene is derived  
15 from *E. coli*.

12. The process according to claim 3, where in the *cysK* gene is derived from *E. coli*.

20 13. The process according to claim 2, wherein the foreign protein is a serine-rich protein.

14. The process according to claim 3, wherein the foreign protein is a serine-rich protein.